NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS
Special Edition 29
2025

NAVY DENTAL CORPS LEGENDS

REAR ADMIRAL ALEXANDER LYLE

Dr. Alexander Gordon Lyle (1889-1955) of Gloucester, Mass., was commissioned an assistant dental surgeon in April 1915.

Lyle was assigned to the 5th Marine Regiment in 1917 and deployed to France.

On April 23, 1918, while serving as regimental dentist in the Verdun Sector, his unit came under heavy enemy fire. When a Marine (Cpl Thomas Regan) was wounded in an explosion, **Lyle risked his own life to administer life-saving first aid. For his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.**

In the ensuing years, Lyle served across the globe—aboard USS Tennessee, USS California, and USS Houston; at naval air stations; and in China with the 4th Marine Regiment.

In 1943, Lyle became the **first flag officer in the history of the Dental Corps.**